

JUL 18 2007

Serial No. 09/674,201

REMARKS

Claims 46, 47, 53 and 57 stand allowed in accordance with a Notice of Allowance mailed on July 6, 2007. The issue fee has not yet been paid. New claims 58-66 have been added by the present amendment. Accordingly, upon entry of the present amendment, claims 46, 47, 53 and 55-66 will be pending in the present application.

I. Amendments:

New claims 58-66 are directed to a process for the production of paper which includes the step of adding drainage and retention aids, which drainage and retention aids include an anionic microparticulate material and a cationic vinyl addition polymer. The new claims all depend from allowed claim 46, which specifies the cationic vinyl addition polymer being added.

New claims 58, 59, 61, 63, 65 and 66 correspond to originally filed claims 1, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15, respectively. In addition, new claims 58, 59, 61 and 63 correspond to claims 26, 35, 36 and 38, which were previously presented in a preliminary amendment dated October 27, 2000. As such, no new matter has been added.

New claim 60 corresponds to claim 43, which was also previously presented in the preliminary amendment dated October 27, 2000. Again, no new matter has been added.

New claims 62 and 64 correspond to claims 37 and 38, respectively, which were both previously presented in an amendment dated March 5, 2002. Again, no new matter has been added.

II. Comments:

Although the application originally included claims directed to a process for the production of paper, all of the process claims were cancelled during prosecution and only claims directed to the cationic vinyl addition polymer were kept active.

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The present amendment is needed to provide additional patent coverage for a process for the production of paper which includes the step of adding drainage and retention aids, which drainage and retention aids include a cationic vinyl addition polymer according to allowed claim 46. Applicants respectfully submit that such a process is an important embodiment of the present invention and that they are entitled to the additional patent coverage. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that such process claims should be included in the present application (and patent), as opposed to being pursued in a separate application, for efficiency reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that the new claims require no additional search or examination, since each of the new claims depend from allowed claim 46 and patentability of each of the new claims can be found based on that allowed claim.

Applicants submit that each of the new claims are patentable, since, as discussed above, the claims all depend from allowed claim 46. Claim 46 is a product claim directed to the cationic vinyl addition polymer which has already been found to be patentable (See Notice of Allowability and Examiner's Statement for Reasons for Allowance dated July 6, 2007). As each of the new claims are directed to a process for using the product (according to allowed claim 46), it is respectfully submitted that, for the same reasons claim 46 was found to be patentable, each of the new claims are patentable.

The new claims were not presented earlier due to an oversight and because Applicants were initially focusing on the claims directed to the cationic vinyl addition polymer. The Applicants intended to add the new process claims to the application at the time the RCE was filed, which resulted in the current Notice of Allowance, but due to an oversight the claims were not added at that time.

III. Conclusion:

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that it is appropriate for the present amendment to be entered without withdrawing the application from issue, and that the

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present application, including claims 46, 47, 53 and 55-66, is in proper form to proceed to issue, which action is earnestly solicited. If resolution of any remaining issue is required prior to issue of the application, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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